First Congregational
United Church of Christ

111 S. Wallace Blvd. Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(Mailing Address: P.O. Box 980413 Ypsilanti, MI 48198)
www.ypsiucc.org

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

January 8, 2023
10:00 am

Possibilities Unfolding

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, You are welcome here!

WORSHIP ON ZOOM -- Zoom opens at 9:30 am Sunday morning.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7643282234

Meeting ID: 764 328 2234
Passcode: Ypsi1882
To join by phone, dial the number, 1-312-626-6799

- Welcome to Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC's Zoom Worship Service
- Hymns are included in the worship bulletin. A separate hymnal is not needed.
- If you are joining worship for the first-time on Zoom, please add your name and email to the chat so the Zoomie Greeter can introduce you.
- Thank you for choosing to worship with us today!

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT OF
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identifies and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions. All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe, nurturing community of faith. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Start Zoom Recoding to Cloud **VISHNU SIRNIVAS**

"Let All Things Now Living"
Arr, Cindy Berry

RINGING THE BELL **MARTY KLEINO**

WELCOME **PASTOR LIZ**

- A warm welcome to all, including first-time visitors.
- As stated in our Open and Affirming Covenant (previous page), all persons are welcome in this community of faith.
- **Today—the first Sunday of the month--we celebrate the birthdays of folks in our faith community born in this month by singing "Happy Birthday**." Mo Sherrill, 1-4-23

ANNOUNCEMENTS **DAN KIDDER-MCQUOWN**

- **COMMUNITY SHARING OF OTHER ANNOUNCMENTS:**
  - The Worship Leader is Dan Kidder-McQuown.
  - In-person Greeter is **Donna Eyster**; Zoom Greeter is **Ellie Gusman.** The Greeters will introduce folks participating in worship.
  - The 1st Sunday we sing Happy Birthday to all folks with birthday during the month. Our records show no January birthdays, if you have a January birthday let us know and we will gladly sing.
  - Please share your announcements so everyone can learn what is happening in our beloved ministry community.
  - **This is the first Sunday of the month; we will be sharing communion during this service. Please gather your own elements. Creativity is a blessing!**
  - Please submit written announcements to Margaret Harner, Worship Coordinator, margaretsharner@gmail.com, by midnight on Tuesday.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Star Child"
174 SING

CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsive with microphone muted **DAN KIDDER-MCQUOWN**

Leader: We gather wondering, where will we find the babe born in Bethlehem?

People: Will we find the Babe in the laughter of children, the wisdom of grandparents?

Leader: We gather asking, where will we find the Child of Christmas?

People: Will we find the child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free?

Leader: We gather wanting to know where we will find the Christ who has come for us?

People: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"
154 NCH

LISTENING FOR GOD

FIRST READING **Isaiah 42:1-9** **DAN KIDDER-MCQOWN**

SECOND READING **Matt 2:1-12** **PASTOR LIZ**

HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Sing a Different Song"
150 NCH

MORNING MESSAGE **"Possibilities Unfolding"** **PASTOR LIZ**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pause Zoom recording (button with two vertical lines)
*Zoomies: Please turn on your microphone

You are invited to share your joys and petitions for prayer.
Please unmute your microphone to share a joy or make a prayer of petition.
At the end of each joy or petition, please say **"God in your mercy"**
We will respond (with microphones muted) **"Hear our prayers"**

PASTORAL PRAYER *Restart Zoom recording **PASTOR LIZ**

DISCIPLES' PRAYER *Unison with Microphone muted **PASTOR LIZ**

We search for your light, Star Caster,
but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation.
Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure,
for we expect to have our desires fulfilled, rather than your hopes for us.
We want the gifts of wealth, health, success,
rather than those of servanthood, compassion, peace.
We are so foolish and put our needs ahead of your grace.
Shaper of our lives, forgive us.
Help us be like those seekers of so long ago,
who found hope, instead of a destination.
As we journey with Jesus, fill us with the light of your joy and love.
Amen.

OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING **PASTOR LIZ**

Our electronic giving platform is Tithe.ly: Link to Tithe.ly

Checks can be mailed to:
First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORY **"This Is My [Father's] World"** **VISHNU SRINIVAS**
Arr, Cindy Berry

DOXOLOGY *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Take My Gifts" v,2, 562 NCH

Take the fruits that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter, flavor of the Jesus life,
Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Unison with Microphone muted **DAN KIDDER-MCQUOWN**

We pray, O God, that our offerings delight you.
We bring them to encourage all who work for justice and peace on our behalf,
May they not grow faint nor be crushed by opposition.
May the oppressed find healing, the discouraged receive hope,
and those who are bound discover freedom,
through and beyond our efforts. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"We Are People on a Journey"
340 NCH

COMMUNION SERVICE **PASTOR LIZ**

No matter who you are and where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at Christ's table!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING **PASTOR LIZ**

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

CLOSING HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
160 NCH

BENEDICTION *Responsive, microphone muted **PASTOR LIZ**

Leader: Let us go to walk with God:

People: For as long as the sun endures,
For as long as the moon shines in the night sky.

Leader: Let us go to walk with Christ:

People: Into the shadows of poverty and need,
Into the communities where injustice dwells.

Leader: Let us go to walk with the Spirit:

People: Bringing hope to those who have none,
Bringing peace to our brokenness. Amen.

POSTLUDE **"Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine"** **VISHNU SRINIVAS**
Arr, Cindy Berry

PASSING THE PEACE *Stop Zoom Recording (square button) **FRIENDS GATHERED**
*Save Zoom Recording to Cloud (click "yes")

- Share a greeting with others as we transition to our casual **Friendship Time.**

Zoom Only Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Rev. Liz Larrivee, Pastor & Spiritual Director
Tiffanie Waldron, Music Director
Vishnu Sirinvas, Accompanist

Jenn Zibbell, MID Ministry Intern
Rev. Dan Kidder-McQuown, Worship Leader
Donna Eyster (Roomie) & Ellie Gusman (Zoomie) Greeters.
Marty Kleino, Usher & Bell Ringer

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734-482-6980
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ATTRIBUTIONS FOR TODAY'S BULLETIN

- **Cover Art:** Sally and Snoopy, Courtesy of Donna Eyster
- **Call to Worship/Disciples Prayer/Benediction:** Thom Shuman, *Playing Hopscotch in Heaven. (adapted)*
- **Prayer of Dedication:** Lavon Bayler, *Taught by Love. (adapted)*
- **Hymn Profiles:** *New Century Hymnal Companion,* Pilgrim Press (1999)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For pastoral care needs and/or emergencies, please call or text Pastor Liz, 734-358-6108

Worship Next Week: Worship Leader is Ellie Gusman; Greeters are Dan Kidder-McQuown (Zoom) **and Tad Wysor** (Room).

Weekly Ypsi UCC Community Discernment Gatherings Resume on Mondays at 7:00 pm on Zoom beginning January 23, 2023

> *When two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them*. Jesus in Matthew 18:20
>
> *Liminal space is that space that human beings hate to occupy…where the biblical God is continually taking us.* Richard Rohr

Our on-going Zoom Community Discernment Gatherings will resume on Monday nights at 7:00 pm after the recent Advent/Christmas/Epiphany "pause" beginning on January 23, 2023. Many thanks to Rev. LeAnn Seto for providing copies of the United Methodist Church 2017 Annual Conference handout summarizing the key points of Susan Beaumont's ***Leading in a Liminal Season.*** This outline is a wonderful support tool for understanding the dynamics we are currently experiencing as we "Lead with Prescence" through this season of ambiguity and disorientation in the life of our church. Roomies can pick up a copy at the church by the door. Zoomies, please send Pastor Liz an email **(lizlarrivee@gmail.com)** if you would like a copy, and she will mail one to you via the USPS.

Please bring your thoughts about "What makes us a church?" (vs. another type of non-profit, community organization, club, or volunteer group) to the January 23 7:00 pm Zoom gathering. We will be reviewing our most recent Ypsi UCC "Mission Statement(s)" as a launch point for our discussion. Thanks to all who are contributing their time, talents, and love to gathering weekly on Mondays 7:00 pm (Community Discernment Gatherings) and/or bi-weekly on Wednesdays 7:00 pm beginning January 18 (Engaging Christian Contemplative Practices) as we listen for the Holy Spirit's still speaking voice calling us toward our shared ministry future together.

Church Council meets on January 25th at 6:30pm on Zoom. All are welcome!

Annual Meeting: **Mark your calendars and save the date!** The Annual Meeting of the Ypsilanti First Congregational United Church of Christ has been called for Sunday, February 19, 2023, immediately following worship. S

OUR MINISTRIES

HOLY GROUNDS

During the Omicron (COVID) surge members of Ypsi UCC provided local coffee, tea, coffee cups, and single packaged snacks for the night shift at Trinity Health St. Joe Mercy Hospital where Rev. Dan Kidder-McQuown is the night chaplain. While the COVID crisis has partially resolved, the stress level of the night staff has not. Contributing factors include the long-term emerging effects of COVID, a lack of staff, a nation-wide nurse shortage, and staff burnout. The night shift greatly appreciates this ministry of hospitality and caring.

Please consider donating coffee that is roasted by local Michigan companies. Tea and single packaged candy or snacks are also welcome. Please contact Marty Kleino at Mgkleino@gmail.com or 734-262-1419 to have your donation delivered to St. Joes. If you would like more information about this ministry, please contact Dan Kidder-McQuown at mcq188@gmail.com or 517-240-8413.

THE BEACON CENTER

The **Beacon Center** is the newest community social justice of the Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC. As a light to all persons, the Beacon Center's ministry will support the spiritual formation, creative expression, overall thriving and advocacy of at-risk students of all ages, including those affiliated with three primary local institutions of higher learning: Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College and University of Michigan. In the Spirit of the UCC moto, "That They All Shall Be One", Beacon Center serves as a uniting and unifying umbrella across our congregation serving persons sources through our three other community social justice ministry networks. Those ministries (each detailed below) include WICIR (Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights) serving the immigrant communities, MI-ONA (Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition) serving LGTBQ+ persons, and WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition) which brings together faith, labor and community organizations to address local issues.

The Beacon Center is committed to advocate for self-determination and education for all people, especially students living in poverty, persons of color experiencing racism, and other de-humanizing circumstances and conditions. Beacon Center's student demographics include persons of color, immigrants, minorities, LGTBQ+ folk, women, those with special needs, the economically disadvantaged, those facing housing insecurity, the financially challenged, and the working poor. For additional information on the Beacon Center, please contact Rev. Liz Larrivee at lizlarrivee@gmail.com

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY – WASHTENAW INTERFAITH COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS (WICIR)

Since 2008, **WICIR** has been working with, and in support of, immigrants in Washtenaw County facing challenges of many kinds. At our inception the primary need that brought us together was to support people facing enforcement action by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement); most often detention, deportation, and removal. To date, WICIR has responded to 650 calls. Always in partnership with folks most affected, many actions and services have evolved as identified by our immigrant siblings, while always keeping focused on our original mission:

To provide culturally sensitive and supportive urgent response to those in Washtenaw County in immigration-related crises; impact local governmental policies to empower and protect immigrant community members; and work toward humane national immigration reform.

Our outreach has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many in immigrant communities have experienced significant challenges as they struggle to pay rent, provide food for their families and other basic survival needs. To respond, WICIR, in partnership with Mexiquenses in Michigan (from St. Francis of Assisi Parish), has raised and distributed $200,000 relief funds to immigrants and their families. We have a waiting list of those still in need and will continue this effort as funds are available.

For information about what's happening with immigrant rights and **Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights**, or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Melanie Harner at melharner@gmail.com or through the WICIR website: https://wicir.org/. You can also find a link on the church website.

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION

First Congregational is a founding institution of the local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition)**. In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. WeROC members are, at our core, focused on intentionally re-weaving the frayed fabric of community at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated. Especially in this time when so many are being hit by the health and economic crises, WeROC's focus on raising voices of those most affected is more important than ever (See COVID-19 Resources at www.werocmi.org) WeROC's Mission Statement is:

WeROC brings together faith, labor, community organizations, and individuals to build the healthy collective power needed to break down the systems that sustain injustice, racism, and economic inequality.

WeROC is affiliated with the Detroit Metro organization MOSES and the Gamliel National Network. Contact Tad Wysor at tadwysor@gmail.com or 734-883-3225.

This past election year showed us good things can happen when we're working together in the same direction. WeROC is moving rapidly **forward** to keep momentum going and find ways to continue to be more effective together in making our communities healthier and more vibrant places; improving the lives of *everyone* in big ways-- especially those who are most vulnerable and whose voice have seldom been heard.

174 Star-Child

♩=110
D A/C♯ Bm G/B D/F♯ F♯m Em
1. Star - Child, earth - Child go - be-tween of God, love Child,
2. Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child,
3. Grown child, old child, mem-ory full of years, sad child,
4. Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more, wise child,
5. Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pen - dous sign, down - to -
♩=110
Chorus
6
D/F♯ G Em/B Bm Asus A D A/C♯ Bm Em/G A/C♯
Christ Child, heav-en's light-ning rod. This year, this year, let the day ar -
used child, no one wants to know.
lost child, sto - ry told in tears.
faith child, know-ing joy in store.
earth Child, Star of stars that shine.
12
Dsus² D D/F♯ G A⁷ G/B A/C♯ Dsus² Dsus²/F♯ D/F♯ G A A⁷ D
-rive when Christ - mas comes for ev - ery - one, ev - ery-one a - live!

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, Copyright ©1992 Shirley Erena Murray
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Music: Carlton R. Young, Copyright ©1994 Hope Publishing Co.Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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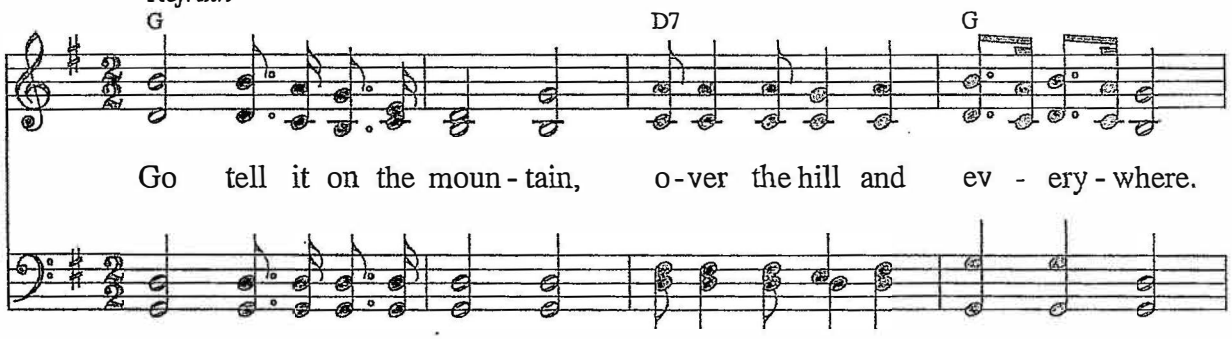
Go Tell It on the Mountain

154

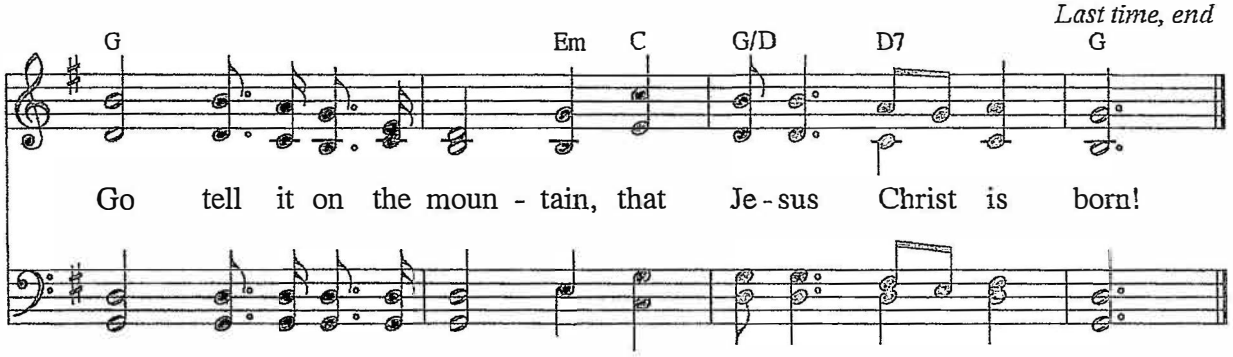
African-American spiritual
Arr. John W. Work II, 1907

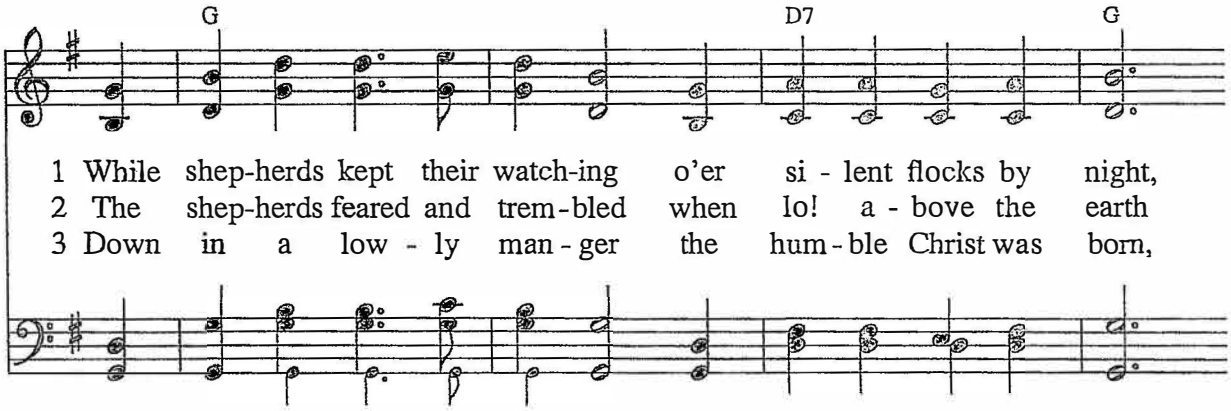
Luke 2:8–20; Isa. 18:3; 52:7

Refrain

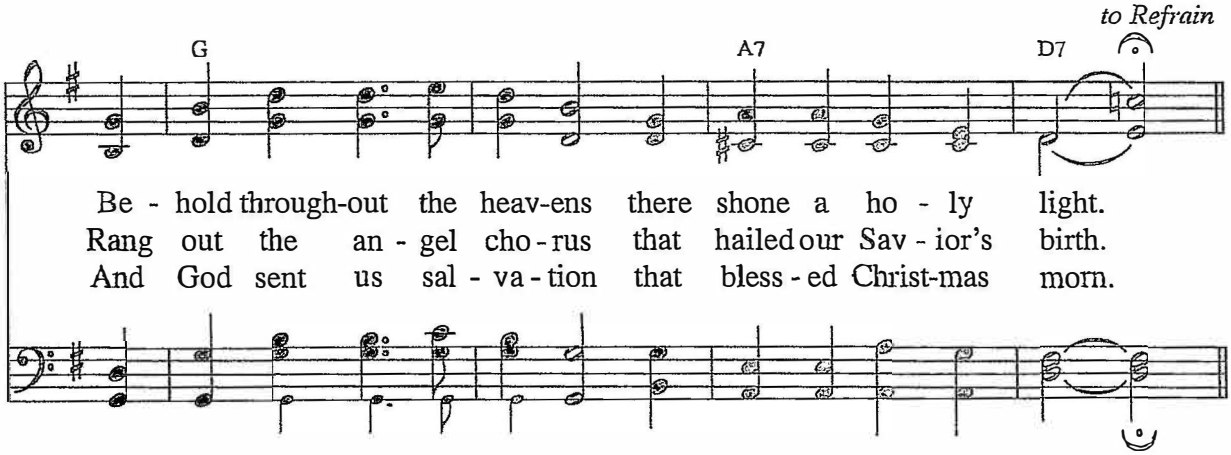


Last time, end




G
D7
G
1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

to Refrain


G
A7
D7
Be - hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

This is one of the few spirituals heard inside as well as outside African-American churches. It was adapted by John Wesley Work II, who is remembered as the director of the Jubilee Singers of Fisk University.

Tune: African-American spiritual
Adapt. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

1/2

150 Sing a Different Song

Isa. 9:2, 6–7; 42:10–11; Matt. 1:23

The Iona Community, 1987; alt.

Vigorously

D
D
1 Sing a dif-ferent song now
2 Shout a dif-ferent shout now
3 Love a dif-ferent love now
4 Dance a dif-ferent dance now
(Introduction)
Em7/D
D
Em7
A7
Christ-mas is here, sing a song of peo-ple know-ing God's
Christ-mas is here, shout a shout of joy and gen - u - ine
Christ-mas is here, love with-out con-di - tion, love with - out
Christ-mas is here, dance a dance of war on suf - fering and
B
Em7
A7
D
near: The Mes - si - ah is born in the
cheer: Fill the earth and the sky with the
fear: With the hum - ble and poor, with the
fear: Peace and jus - tice are one, in the

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face of our scorn, sing a dif-ferent song to
news from on high, shout a dif-ferent shout that
shy and un - sure, love a dif-ferent love. Let
light of the sun. Dance a dif-ferent dance. God's
1–3
4
Em7 A7 D D
wel-come and warn.
all may come by.
Christ be the cure!
reign has be - gun!
1–3
4

This lively new carol from The Iona Community of Scotland can be accompanied by drums and tambourines to enhance its dance-like quality. The text invites enthusiastic participation in celebrating the Christmas event.

Tune: DIFFERENT SONG 10.10.6.6.10.
John L. Bell, 1987

150 Sing a Different Song

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958) collaborated on this text in 1987 for the Iona Community's Wild Goose worship group. This aspect of the Iona Community develops new liturgical and worship materials to help share the gospel message in a new form.

John L. Bell (b. 1949) wanted to create a robust bouncy tune as an antidote to the "mushy baby festival melodies" often used with Christmas hymns when he composed this music in 1987. It has been named DIFFERENT SONG after the words of the text.

John Bell was born on November 20, 1949, in Kilmarnock, Scotland. His mother was a devoted Christian and his father an agnostic until late in life. Bell was ordained to the Presbyterian ministry in 1978 and worked as a youth coordinator in Glasgow and at the Iona Community from 1978 to 1986.

Somos pueblo que camina

(We Are People on a Journey)

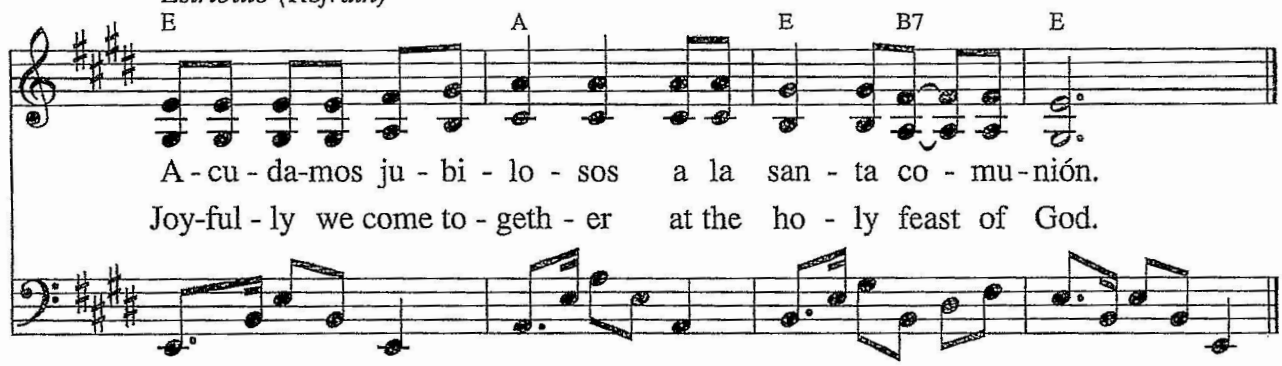
340

"Misa Popular Nicaragüense," 20th century; alt.
English version, Carolyn Jennings, 1993

John 6:32–35

E
B
B7
E
1 So-mos pue-blo que ca-mi-na por la sen-da del do-lor.
2 Los hu-mil-des y los po-bres in-vi-ta-dos son de Dios.
1 We are peo-ple on a jour-ney; pain is with us all the way.
2 God has sent the in-vi-ta-tion to the hum-ble and the poor.

Estribillo (Refrain)



3 Es-te pan que Dios nos brin-da
a-li-men-ta nues-tra u-nión. *(Estribillo)*

4 Cris-to a-quí se ha-ce pre-sen-te;
al reu-nir-nos es su a-mor. *(Estribillo)*

5 Los se-dien-tos de jus-ti-cia
bus-can su li-be-ra-ción. *(Estribillo)*

3 This is bread that God pro-vides us,
nour-ish-ing our u-ni-ty. *(Refrain)*

4 Christ is ev-er pres-ent with us
to u-nite us all in love. *(Refrain)*

5 All who tru-ly thirst for jus-tice
seek their lib-er-a-tion here. *(Refrain)*

The "Misa Popular Nicaragüense," in which this hymn appeared, was composed for the Eucharist liturgy by members of the "comunidades de base"—a group of laypersons who organized to deal with issues in the Latin American church and community.

Tune: SOMOS PUEBLO 8.7. with refrain (8.7.)
"Misa Popular Nicaragüense," 20th century

160 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
(Jesus, the Light of the World)

John 8:12; 9:5

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.; adapt. George D. Elderkin; alt.

1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, Je-sus, the light of the world;
2 Joy-ful, all you saints a-rise, Je-sus, the light of the world;
3 Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored, Je-sus, the light of the world;
4 Hail the Bear-er of God's peace! Je-sus, the light of the world;
Glo-ry to the Christ-child bring, Je-sus, the light of the world.
Join the tri-umph of the skies, Je-sus, the light of the world.
Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Word, Je-sus, the light of the world.
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the light of the world.
Refrain
We will fol-low the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the
dew-drops of mer-cy are bright, Shine all a-round us by
day and by night, Je-sus, the light of the world.

The original version of Charles Wesley's hymn has received various alterations throughout the years. This adaptation by George Elderkin utilizes a repeated ascription, "Jesus, the light of the world," and a refrain to create a rousing carol of praise.

Tune: ELDERKIN 7.7.7.7. with refrain
George D. Elderkin
Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993